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# Rules & Field Setup

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Ages : 3 to 8 Years

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**Huxley Parks & Recreation  
Department**

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## Soccer Rules Ages 3 to 8 Years

The overall goal of the league is to promote education, sportsmanship, and fun. Players will learn the basic fundamentals of outdoor soccer while interacting with other children and getting exercise.

### SETUP:

#### 3-4 Year Old

4 on 4, no goal keeper  
4 – six minute quarters  
2 minute break between quarters  
5-minute half time break  
Field size is 20' x 20'  
Ball size is 3

#### 5-6 Year Old

4 on 4, no goal keeper  
4 – eight minute quarters  
2 minute break between quarters  
5-minute half time break  
Field size is 20' x 20'  
Ball size is 3

#### 7-8 Year Old

4 on 4, no goal keeper  
4 – twelve minute quarters  
2 minute break between quarters  
5-minute half time break  
Field size is 25' x 35'  
Ball size is 4

### KEY RULES

- Ball is “In Play” until referee or coach blows whistle.
- Normal out of bound soccer rules (throw-ins or corner kicks) apply for all divisions.
- Rotate players taking throw-ins or corner kicks to ensure all have a chance.
- Continuous play is encouraged unless a stoppage is required (injury, etc...) Restart with a drop ball between players.
- No Direct kicks at any time – all kicks will be “indirect” meaning you cannot score directly off this type of kick.
- **Leaving your feet or Slide-tackling is not allowed at anytime.** Any player committing this foul might be sent to the sidelines – based of the referee’s judgment.
- Tripping, pushing, and holding are examples of fouls that will be called.
- All fouls will be restarted with an indirect kick at the point where the foul was committed.

- On all restarts – another player from either team must play the ball prior to a goal being scored.
- For leagues with no goalies – a player (center, fullback, or sweeper) can be stationed near goal – but cannot use hands.
- All coaches are encouraged to play each player in every position.
- Every child must play equal amounts of playing time per game.
- **Additional rules for 3-4 & 5-6 Year Old Leagues**
  - No defensive player may be within 5 yards of their goal box if the ball is on the opposing side of the field.
  - Coaches on the field are encouraged to run along the side of the field and let the players have control of the middle of the field.
  - Ball should be put into play as soon as possible without the coaches trying to position every player on the field during throw-ins, penalty kicks, and kick-offs. This will avoid delaying playing time and increase the participation time.
  - All coaches and team managers are encouraged to let all of their players on the field attack the ball and try to score. Remember this is the first time for many of these players participating in organized sports.

#### **TIMING:**

- Games consist of 4 quarters – number of minutes will be dependent on the age bracket.
- The number of minutes per quarter might vary based on available time and players, and will be agreed upon with input from the coaches at the game time.
  - 3-4 Year Old – 6 min/qtr.
  - 5-6 Year Old – 8 min/qtr.
  - 7-8 Year Old – 12 min/qtr.
- There will be a continuous clock and stop only in the event of an injury.
- Two minute breaks after quarters 1 and 3 – Five minute break at halftime.

#### **SCORING:**

- Scoring will not be kept for any age groups. Our aim is towards the education of the game and enjoyment of play for all those involved.

#### **ATTIRE:**

- Sport cleats are allowed and preferred. Steel cleats are not allowed. Regular gym shoes are allowed.
- We highly recommend that players wear shin guards. Shin guards should be the type that also covers the ankle area.
- No jewelry to be worn by any players.
- Nothing hard should be worn in the hair. Referee will check prior to each game.

#### **SPORTSMANSHIP:**

- If the referee witnesses any acts of any unsportsmanlike conduct including inappropriate language, talk, or excessive physical play the game will be stopped and the player (or players) will be sent to the sidelines.

- Excessive foul play may result in the player being ejected from the game based on the referee's judgment. Referee will talk with players and coaches before a problem escalates to this level.

**BALL SIZE:**

- **Division**
    - 3-4 Year Old
    - 5-6 Year Old
    - 7-8 Year Old
- | <b>Ball Size</b> |
|------------------|
| Size 3           |
| Size 3           |
| Size 4           |

